

DEPARTMENT HEAD MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE TOWN MANAGER

MAY, 2007

ASSESSOR: Submitted by David Utakis

Despite the anxiety over budget concerns, the assessor office staff keeps showing up to get the job done. The routine work of providing information to the public continues along with the never ending requests for motor vehicle excise tax abatements.

A good portion of the month of May has been spent with Barbara Harris and Jennifer Hyland updating our records in preparation for the preliminary FY2008 estimated tax bills. They had to deal with ownership changes, lot splits, new condos, new construction, classification changes and address changes and corrections.

We will be meeting June 4 with our state CAMA representative to finalize the data that will be shipped to Vadar Systems. Vadar works with the tax collector to prepare the preliminary bills which must be mailed out by June 30 in order for them to be payable to the town by August 1. Timeliness here is extremely important.

May ended with this office still waiting for our new GIS maps updated as of Jan 1, 2007 for use in FY2008. The hold-up was the creation of a new data transfer program which has not been ironed out by our GIS provider and the state CAMA system computer experts. Our GIS web-site will be updated soon using the old transfer program which still works but will no longer be supported by the GIS provider in the future. The updated zoning section of the GIS map was received and reviewed and large print versions of the maps for display will be available in about two weeks. The entire update package should be available for me to install locally in two weeks.

May was also a busy month for gathering data generated by building permits. This work will continue throughout the summer, but the busiest time is now through the end of June. Our new growth figures include new construction as of June 30. Although new construction is down somewhat, there is still a lot of rehab work, additions, decks etc. There are many buildings and developments that began last year that remain incomplete this year. It will be a struggle to come up with the \$435,000 new growth figure estimated for FY2008 as our single family construction rate hasn't picked up.

There continues to be a glut of single family homes on the market with 90 available today, according to the Multiple Listing Service. Also available for sale are 60 condos and nine multi-family properties.

Staff from RRC Corp. will be brought in starting June 12 to handle personal property accounts. RRC gets personal property done quicker, faster and cheaper than we can do internally because of their specialized expertise and software. Our staff has already collected forms of lists from area businesses that will be used in updating and maintaining these accounts. Old accounts have been deleted from our billing system and new accounts are being identified.

As reported last month, I will be spending much of the next four months out in the field doing data collection, analyzing the market conditions, and doing quality control checks on existing real estate data. Even though our next re-certification of values does not have to be completed until the fall of 2009, we must continue to update data on 5,800 parcels so that we don't have to spend \$100,000 for a contractor to do it all for us in FY2009. This office will also continue to compile a photographic inventory of all real estate.

New growth numbers should be finalized by the end of the summer or early fall. The interim year adjustment of values should be completed around the same time.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Submitted by Susan Smith

Meetings held: 2 - May 3rd and May 17th.

Food inspections – 12

Food re-inspections – 3

The Board of Health office completed the following by phone and walk-in:

Calls for service – 318
Phone calls – 207

Complaints investigated - 16
Walk-ins – 111

Animal complaints – 6

May 2: Cay Den Herder attended the People First interagency meeting.

May 28: Susan Smith did a community informational presentation, following the Memorial Day Parade. This included protecting one's self from the sun, rabies, mosquito's, backyard composting, care of septic systems and much more.

The Board continues their work in emergency preparedness.

Relevant Actions:

5/3/2007 – 2 variances were granted for a septic repair at 181 Quaker Highway

5/3/2007 – 2 variances were granted for a septic repair at 117 Quaker Highway

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Nick Gazerro

- Work is progressing at the Stanley Woolen Mill. I conducted a walk through and had a meeting with the Developer.
- Yearly building inspections are beginning.
- Our Department addressed an emergency which took place on the morning of 5/21/07 when a vehicle hit a house on North Main St.
- I conducted a meeting with the owner of Lydia Taft about expansion of that site.
- I received a call from the Police Department about an open door at Waucantuck Mill and followed up several times to check this matter.
- In May, 2007, the number of permits issued and the fees collected were as follows:

Building Permits	36	Fee's Collected	\$23,190.00
Electric Permits	39	Fee's Collected	\$ 3,172.20
Plumbing Permits	20	Fee's Collected	\$ 1,005.00
Gas Permits	16	Fee's Collected	\$ 730.00

Total Collected \$28,097.20

Building permits issued during May, 2007:

3 Additions	1 Demo of SFH
9 Roofs	1 Above ground pool
6 Decks	1 Signs
1 Windows (7 replacement)	1 Basement (finish)
1 Siding (vinyl)	6 Single Family Home 15,700 sf
1 Car Wash 3-bay	1 Steel Building 7475 sf
1 2-car Garage	1 Porch over existing deck
1 Bump-out for fireplace	1 Handicap ramp

6 of these were for commercial buildings; 5 occupancy permits were issued during May

CABLE ACCESS: Submitted by Barry Giles

High School Communication Class: The Communication Class is finishing up the school year with five seniors successfully completing training in television production. It was a pleasure working with these seniors during the last semester of the school year.

The after school program has also completed a successful program with three Middle School students finishing the eight week program. We are offering a summer program during the month of July through the *Let's Explore Program*.

End of School Year Programming: The end of the school year is upon us and I have been very busy working with all the schools in covering various events. I have finished working with the 2nd grade classes at Taft Elementary on their International Fair. Each student was videotaped during their presentation on the country they studied. On May 10th the students put on a Music and Dance performance which was also taped for re-broadcast.

Students at the High School also helped cover various events at the High School, including the Spring Talent Show and The Spring Band Concert. We are now gearing up for graduation ceremonies in the first week of June.

Volunteer Training: The volunteer training offered through the Adult Education Program wrapped up in the middle of May. Volunteers were trained on all aspects of television production. If anyone would like more information on workshops, please feel free to contact me.

Community Programming: The production staff and a few volunteers have been busy covering various events in and around Uxbridge. Some events during the month of May were the Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony and The Bomber Crash Site Dedication.

May was also the month for Town Elections. Candidates for election were invited to participate in the Candidates Forum on local cable. Each candidate taped a segment informing the community about their ideas during the campaign trail. Coverage of the candidates nights sponsored by various groups in town was also videotaped for local cable. Live coverage of the election results were broadcasted from the Selectmen Meeting Room during the night of elections.

Bill Albin, one of our most dedicated volunteers, has been busy during the month of May covering many events including the Blackstone Valley Canoe Race, the fishing derby at West Hill and numerous events at the Senior Center.

Along with these and other programming we receive from outside our community, the staff has continued to expand coverage of government and special meeting for the community.

Cable Schedules on the Town Web Site: With the recent removal of the UCAT web site, scheduling information and forms will soon be available on the town's web site. If you need to contact the Program Coordinator or email messages to be posted on the bulletin board, please use the following email: cable.access@uxbridge-ma.gov.

Cable casting Problems: I have been in constant contact with Charter Communications in regards to the replacement of equipment that was not working through out our system. I have been informed that new equipment has been ordered and will be replaced during the month of June. They have also been working on signal drop out problems on Channel 13.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Submitted by Rachel Landry

Permitting Activity: The Commission received 4 new applications for work near or within wetlands:

Savage, Denver and Doris -141 Old Millville Road (Map 40, Parcel 778) – NOI – DEP #312-864

Construction of an addition to an existing single family home. The proposed work is within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and within 200-foot Riverfront Area of Blackstone River. The application was initially incomplete due to a lack of information regarding provision of compensatory flood storage, required for any project which has the probability of displacing floodwaters. To address this concern, the applicant revised the proposed addition so that the ground level of the construction remains open to floodwaters (addition to be constructed on posts), thus avoiding potential displacement of floodwaters. The Commission deemed that as revised, the project meets the performance standards for work in Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. An Order of Conditions was issued for the project.

Northern Development Group, LLC - 55 Glen Street (Map 36, Parcel 4255) – NOI – DEP #312-868

Construction of an addition, deck, and aboveground swimming pool for an existing single family home. The proposed work is located within 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The Commission has deferred deliberations on this project as the applicant has yet to stabilize the yard of this recently built house. Erosion has been occurring with every rain event, and sediments are traveling to a catch basin draining to a wetland that has been repeatedly silted from this project site. The applicant has been advised on multiple occasions to stabilize exposed areas throughout the project site. Deliberations will not commence until stabilization has been achieved.

Merchant, Carl - 371 Aldrich Street (Map 49, Parcel 395) – NOI – DEP #312-869

Repairs to an existing septic system. The proposed work is located within 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The Commission generally views repairs to existing septic systems as an improvement over preexisting conditions. The project was approved with little discussion. An Order of Conditions has been issued.

Quaker Village Condominiums - Unit 117 Quaker Highway (Map 30, Parcel 125) – RDA

Repair of an existing septic system. Portions of the work are proposed within 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The Commission generally views repairs to existing septic systems as an improvement over preexisting conditions. The project was approved with little discussion. A Determination of Applicability allowing the work has been issued.

The Commission received two Requests for Amendment of an Existing Order of Conditions:

Manser, Roger -135 East Street – Request for Amendment – DEP #312-829

Changes to proposed home resulting in additional work in 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland *Changes consist of construction of a larger single family home. The Commission deemed the expansion to be no more detrimental to wetland resource areas than that originally proposed. An Amended Order was issued.*

Briggs, Jennifer - 96 South Main Street – Request for Amendment – DEP #312-834

The proposed amendment consists of reduction of wetland plantings originally proposed to restore area in previously disturbed 100-foot Buffer Zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. Deliberations were deferred to June as a result of lack of representation for the proposed amendment.

Seven new violations were discussed. This is an unusually high number of violations, however, May (and September) usually bring increased incidence of wetlands violation due to an increase in landscaping activity:

St. Mary, Robert and Piccirilli, Karen - 17 Moorland Drive (Map 12B Parcel 4663) – Viol. #0207

Removal of vegetation and placement of fill in Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and 200-foot Riverfront Area of Mumford River. Members of the Commission visited the site. An enforcement order was issued requiring removal of fill.

JA Taylor Construction - 63 Power Street (Map 19, Parcel 4037) – Viol. #0307

Failure to adhere to conditions and approved plans under DEP File #312-764; clearing beyond approved limit of work. An enforcement order was issued which requires plantings of native shrubs as restoration of the area cleared beyond approved limit of work. The enforcement order also reasserts the requirement to complete debris cleanup within 200-foot Riverfront Area, as initially agreed upon.

Carlson, Jeff - 93 Lackey Dam Road (Map 9, Parcel 722) – Viol. #0407

Allegations of work in Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and/or 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands without permit. Site visits were conducted. An approximately 50-foot wide swath along Lackey Dam Pond was cleared of all vegetation. An enforcement order was issued requiring that native vegetation be allowed to grow back within 25 feet of pond edge. The applicant may maintain an access to the water for boat put-in and fishing purposes.

Rondeau, John - 44 Susan Parkway (Map 35, Parcel 582) – Viol. #0707

Removal of vegetation (tree cutting) and possible placement of fill in Bordering Land Subject to Flooding associated with Blackstone River. Deliberations did not commence due to schedule conflicts. Deliberations to commence in June.

Patel, Linessh - 37 Crown & Eagle Way (Map 12b, Parcel 3051) – Viol. #0807

Removal of vegetation (tree cutting) and placement of fill in Bordering Vegetated Wetland. A project had recently been approved and completed at this property. The project consisted of a 3-car garage. Work was proposed to within 25 feet of wetland area. Due to the close proximity of work, the property owner was required to post permanent wetland setback signs at the 25-foot setback boundary as part of the building project. All work was done according to approved plans, and a Certificate of Compliance was issued for that work. Shortly after receiving said certificate, tree clearing was observed on the property. Further inspections revealed that most signs were removed, and tree clearing was occurring in the 25-foot setback area of wetland, and fill had been pushed into wetland to increase lawn area at corner of garage. The Commissioners scheduled additional site visits. Deliberations are continued to June.

National Real Estate & Development, LLC - 201 River Road (Map 45, Parcel 4024) – Viol. #0607

Cutting trees in 200-foot Riverfront Area of Blackstone River. Deliberations did not commence due to schedule conflicts. Deliberations to commence in June.

Boisvert, Joshua Michaud, Star - 29 Chocolog Road (Map 39, Parcel 2336) – Viol. #0507

Continued work, Order of Conditions DEP #312-708 expired. Cutting trees in Bordering Vegetated Wetland. Creation of vehicle access through wetlands, destruction of wetlands vegetation resulting. Failure to create required replication area by June 5, 2006 as agreed to under previous enforcement activity. Notice informing permit holder of expiration on August 27, 2006 sent on March 2, 2006. The original cease and desist order for this violation was sent to the property owner of record (Commission records), JG Development, Inc. No response was received. Review of records in the Assessors office revealed that the property had recently been sold to Mr. Boisvert and Ms. Michaud. It was discovered that the property was foreclosed while under ownership of JG Development, and then offered for sale. Mr. Boisvert and Ms. Michaud were unaware of the constraints on the parcel, and had begun some tree cutting in wetlands. The Commissioners scheduled a site visit. Deliberations are continued to June.

Khumalo, Norman - 4 Dew Lane (Map 23, Parcel 3062) – Viol. #1106

Presentation of wetlands restoration proposal and planting plan. Continued from April. The required planting plan and narrative has not yet been received. Mr. Khumalo was reminded that the Commission expects restoration to previous conditions, and that a planting plan and narrative must be submitted for the Commission's review and approval. Deliberations to continue into June.

Deliberations concluded (see above for further information on these projects):

1. Savage, Denver and Doris -141 Old Millville Road (Map 40, Parcel 778) – NOI – DEP #312-864
2. Merchant, Carl - 371 Aldrich Street (Map 49, Parcel 395) – NOI – DEP #312-869
3. Hirtle, Susan and Dean - 71 Stanphyl Road (Map 32, Parcel 4728) – NOI – DEP# 312-867
4. Quaker Village Condominiums - Unit 117 Quaker Highway (Map 30, Parcel 125) – RDA – DEP #312-xxx

Deliberations continued into June:

1. Northern Development Group, LLC - 55 Glen Street (Map 36, Parcel 4255) – NOI – DEP #312-868
2. Briggs, Jennifer - 96 South Main Street – Request for Amendment – DEP #312-834
3. Rondeau, John - 44 Susan Parkway (Map 35, Parcel 582) – Viol. #0707
4. Patel, Limesh - 37 Crown & Eagle Way (Map 12b, Parcel 3051) – Viol. #0807
5. National Real Estate & Development, LLC - 201 River Road (Map 45, Parcel 4024) – Viol. #0607
6. Boisvert, Joshua Michaud, Star - 29 Chocolog Road (Map 39, Parcel 2336) – Viol. #0507
7. Khumalo, Norman - 4 Dew Lane (Map 23, Parcel 3062) – Viol. #1106
8. Uxbridge Associates, LLC - 325 Mendon Road WAUCANTUCK (Map 20, Parcel 1749)

Construction of 145 condominium units, associated grading, utilities, parking and stormwater management structures. Portions of the proposed work are within 200-foot Riverfront Area of West River, 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland, 100-foot buffer zone of Inland Bank, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. Upon reviewing case evidence pertaining to historic mill exemptions for work in Riverfront Area, the Commission has voted that the proposed work is not subject to the Rivers Protection Act. Deliberations continue on multiple aspects of the project. The Commission requested that pretreatment be provided for stormwater flow on the north site of the project. Previously, proposed treatment was limited to sheet flow over wooded area. It was determined by the Commission that the slope, extent, and permeability of the proposed receiving area was likely insufficient to result in meaningful treatment of the expected volume of runoff from proposed paved area. The Commission requested that stormceptors be utilized in key runoff collection points as an alternative to sheet flow treatment. The Commission expressed concern over the proximity of structures to water edge, proposed in the north site. Alternative plans for this area were requested which provide a minimum of 50 feet of separation between structures and water edge in those areas not slated for hazardous waste cleanup.

9. B&B Associates - 144 Paine Street (Map 37, Parcels 2161 & 2182) – NOI – DEP# 312-866
Construction of a subdivision roadway (Wanda Way). Portions of the proposed work are within 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project as proposed will result in the creation of three lots served by a single cul-de-sac- roadway. The Commission was concerned with the configuration of the proposed lots. The configuration would create lots significantly constrained by wetland, necessitating construction of houses unacceptably close to a unique shrub wetland area that provides critical habitat for rare, threatened and endangered wildlife species. The Commission requested that alternate plans be presented which would allow for construction of homes outside of 100-foot buffer zone of wetland. Various possible reconfigurations were discussed with the applicant's representative. The hearings were continued into June.

Open Space Management: The Pout Pond Subcommittee continues work on the Land Use and Management plan. Roofing work has been completed on the Pout Pond beach house.

Other: Uxbridge Dept. of Public Works - Damage to Sewer Easement (Route 122, behind Susan Parkway) and resultant fill in Bordering Vegetated Wetland (segment of historic canal) as a result of Spring floods. The Commission received and discussed a letter provided by Irving Priest, of DPW, discussing the issue. The Commission anticipates a Notice of Intent filing to address the undermined embankment and removal of fill from the canal.

COUNCIL ON AGING: Submitted by Marsha Petrillo

Pending Budget Cuts for FY08: Should the operational override ballot fail, the Senior Center will implement the following changes beginning July 1 to meet their required reduction of \$12,915.00:

1. The janitorial service will be cancelled beginning July 1, 2007. This will trim \$10,570.00 from our expense account bringing our total expenses, including all utilities and other fixed costs, supplies and maintenance to \$9,500.00. The open custodial position will be added as a work off position beginning July 1.
2. In an attempt to reduce utility costs in FY 08, the Senior Center will not be open to the public after 4:00 pm M-F and will remain closed on the weekends. All committee meetings, social events and SHARE will be cancelled beginning July 1, 2007.
3. Any additional cuts to our department would require staff layoffs and/or a reduction to our work week at a time when the demand for services is on the rise.

Future Needs Questionnaire: To date we have received 90 responses to our Future Needs Questionnaire. The questionnaire consists of four “belief” statements and one statement concerning a willingness to help increase awareness about our future needs. Individuals were asked to check off the statements they believed to be true and to offer up any comments and suggestions. Of those responses:

73 individuals agreed: *The senior center works as a partner with the Fire Department and Police Department forming a public safety triad.*

83 positive responses: *I believe the Senior Center is a growing town Department and will require increased funding in order to meet the community's future needs.*

80 persons checked the statement: *I believe the current Senior Center has a space need and that we need to renovate the existing building. This includes demolition of the vacant building next door to allow for more parking and renovations.*

66 individuals agreed: *We need a new Senior Center to meet the future needs of our growing “baby boomer” population.*

51 people indicated: *I will work with the Council on Aging Board, the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Town Officials and the Senior Center Director to help increase awareness about our future needs.*

1 individual disagreed with all the belief statements regarding the future needs of the Center. 1 individual indicated “the senior center is doing fine the way it is. I don’t believe it needs any more money.”

The results of the questionnaire are available at the Center. If you would like to fill out a questionnaire, or know someone who might be interested in responding, please stop by my office.

Outreach Report: Our Outreach Coordinator works 15 hours each week and is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am – 3:00 pm and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Office Visits	20	Home Visits	3
Nursing Home Visits	3	Wakes & Funerals	1
SMOC Recerts & New Applications	6	Telephone calls in & out	132
Medical Appointment	2	Wellness Checks	1
SHINE / Office Visits	10	SHINE Meeting	1

Monthly Statistical Data: The following statistics represent the number of individuals using our transportation services, meals on wheels, luncheon attendance and attendance at our various programs for the month of May, 2007:

Van Transportation	329	Medical Transportation	65
Tai Chi	21	Card Games/Pitch	135
Meals on Wheels Delivered	1,682	Weekend meals delivered	40
Congregate Meals Served	524	Total Meals Served	2246
Cash Turnovers	\$678.00	Phone calls in & out	883
Guestbook	780+	Super WalMart	15
Cards sent to elders	50+	Senior Prom 5/18 & Mother's Day	70
Pilates, Line Dancing, Cardio & Yoga	58	Hannaford	70
Lunch attendance	206+	CVS	20
Bank	8	Cardio & Yoga (New programs)	75
Computer Classes	8	Senior Club attendance	40
VNA Vital signs	8	Cards, in-kind tax donation letters, & thank you	40

DPW: Submitted by Larry Bombara

1. DEP has completed a preliminary review of the Town's application for the addition of the Rosenfeld well field and has requested additional information regarding water conservation issues and a revised zone II drawdown area.
2. The first quarterly billing cycle has been successful.
3. North End water quality has improved with individual chlorination sites and it is anticipated that a localized injection system will be utilized for short term situations while DEP and our water engineers explore the new technology of oxygenation.

WASTEWATER

1. Electric conduit work has begun for the Lime Silo construction and major construction work should begin in June.
2. Repairs have been made to the asphalt areas within the facility

HIGHWAY

1. Camera investigation was conducted to verify future drainage improvements in the Linwood St / Church St intersection.
2. The repairs of the sidewalk collapse at Crown and Eagle was revisited by the Chair of the BOS and Safety Committee as well as Rep Callahan and the Housing Authority.
3. Traffic line painting has been completed.
4. Lorusso Construction and Murray Paving are completing construction work in a timely fashion on Elm St., Rivulet St., Pleasant St., and Glendale. Work is anticipated to continue through June and July.

OTHER: The possibility of utilizing wind energy is being explored for the BOS through the Mass Technology Collaborative. The Department is investigating for the Town Manager the possibility of creating a Parks and Recreation Department similar to the Town of Northboro to fund operations.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Peter Ostroskey

INCIDENT REPORT: The Department responded to 153 emergency incidents including 11 fire/explosion incidents, 1 overpressure/rupture, 112 rescue/medical emergencies, 4 hazardous conditions, 7 service calls, 11 good intent calls, and 7 false alarms. We provided mutual aid to neighboring communities 19 times and received mutual aid on 4 occasions. Our personnel operated at significant incidents including:

- May 3: Three simultaneous incidents at 3:00 pm including a report of an overturned canoe on the waterfall near the Progressive Club, a medical emergency at Centennial Court, and a brush fire that ultimately burned 30 acres of forest land and required mutual aid from the State Forestry and 7 neighboring communities;
- May 8: A two alarm structure fire on Orchard Place in Douglas required assistance of Engine 1, Ladder 1 and the ambulance at the scene;
- May 9: A suspicious package delivered to a local business required response from the Police and Fire Departments, State HAZMAT Response Team and the State Police Bomb Squad;
- May 21: A motor vehicle accident on North Main Street resulted in one vehicle striking a building on the corner of Homeward Ave. causing damage to the foundation of the building;
- May 25: A two car accident on Hartford Avenue East near North Main Street resulted in six patients being transported to area hospitals using mutual aid assistance from Northbridge and Mendon.

The ambulance service evaluated 119 patients, provided care and transported 95 to area hospitals. The transports were to Milford Regional Medical Center (89), U-Mass – University Campus (4), Memorial Hospital (1) and St. Vincent's Hospital (1). Advanced life support service from other agencies was involved on 44 occasions.

FIRE PREVENTION: Permits and inspections completed over the past month include 14 smoke/carbon monoxide detector inspections completed, and permits issued for home heating oil storage (5), install fire alarm system (2), install aboveground storage tank (1), live entertainment/function (2), maintain tank facility (1), modify sprinkler system (2) store smokeless and black powder (1), tank removal, (3) conduct welding and cutting operations (1), and open air burning (12).

Four facility inspections were completed and one "21E" assessment review completed.

Our personnel participated in planning meetings and exercise of an evacuation drill at the Uxbridge High School in cooperation with the School Department, Police Department and Emergency Management. This is a continuing effort in emergency planning for the community with a focus on the schools.

TRAINING: Personnel received training and participated in drills on emergencies or accidents involving hybrid vehicle and annual mask fit testing was completed. All personnel were provided screening for tuberculosis through Tri-River Health Center.

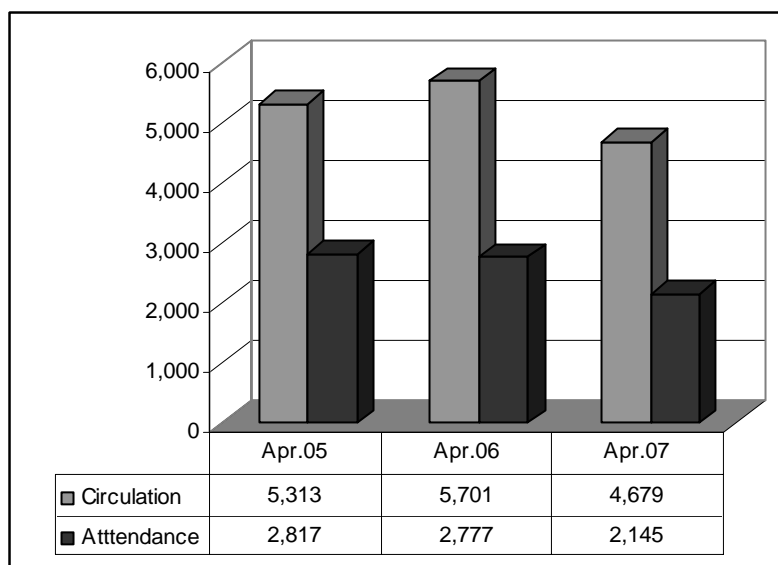
GENERAL: We completed and filed a grant application for equipment to provide for proper filling of our self-contained breathing apparatus that will work in association with our compressor and storage that were recently rehabilitated.

On May 23, we hosted a meeting with six area Fire Departments to discuss possible grant options to fund a mobile data project for the departments in Central Massachusetts. Chief Freitas presented information about a similar system in use by several law enforcement agencies in southern Worcester County that could serve as a basis for our planning.

Ladder 1 was out of service for the last week of the month due to damage resulting from an accident. Temporary repairs have been completed and the unit is back in service however it will require additional work in the near future.

LIBRARY: Submitted by Susan Stanovich

- I. Library Programs and Use
 - A. April circulation and attendance



B. The Friends of the Library held their book sale on May 5.

II. Community Relations

I proctored exams for students on April 26 and May 12.

III. Fiscal Development

A. From April 25-May 14, \$294.80 has been deposited in the Revolving Account.

B. The following amounts remain in accounts on May 14, 2007:

- Salary \$24,700
- Expense 9,283
- Revolving 2
- Incentive Grant 12,797
- Public Library Fund 626
- Trustees' Expense Fund (2.46)

C. I attended the Town Manager's budget meeting on April 28.

IV. Staff Development

A. On April 30 I attended a workshop "Serving Baby Boomers" sponsored and hosted by the Central Mass. Regional Library.

B. The monthly staff meeting was held on May 2.

C. I attended "Spreadsheets for Libraries: Excel Basics" at CMRLS on May 8.

V. Building and Grounds

A. The renovations in the Children's Library are nearly complete and we expect that part of the library to reopen on Monday, May 21.

B. Work began today on the re-grading of the north side of the building.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Scott Freitas

During this time dispatch received, responded to and/or dispatched 1119 calls for service to the Police, Fire or EMS. That is 141 more calls than May of last year. In the first 5 months of this year we have surpassed the 2006 totals to date by 11.8%. 10.9% of May's calls were Fire/EMS related, which usually also required a police response and 89.1% were strictly police related.

- 119 Motor vehicle citations were issued that included 136 separate violations.

- 17 Motor Vehicle Accidents were investigated with 9 injuries out of 52 occupants. This is 5 collisions less than April of 2007 and for the year 2007 compared to 2006 collisions are up 13%. The department will continue to redeploying some of our enforcement activities when available to attempt to reduce the numbers. An interesting note has come to light in the first quarter of 2007 regarding younger drivers; In the first 5 months of 2007 approximately 28 percent of the drivers in collisions were age 21 or under. That number is not larger than the other two age group dynamic in 2007, but is higher percentage wise when compared to 2006. In 2006 only 13% of operators were under 21. That is not an overall condemnation of the driving skills of people 21 and under because increased numbers of young drivers and other factors will all impact the statistic. However it does pose a question that needs further evaluation based on data compiled during this remainder of this year. Regardless of age, all operators of motor vehicles need to buckle up, obey the speed limit, and drive courteously.
- 26 arrests or applications for criminal complaints were made this month. Three were for domestic violence situations. Two were for Drunk Driving. As opposed to last month, Friday was the day in which the most arrests occurred, with Saturday and Wednesday being a close second. The majority of arrests were of people age 34 to 54. Persons age 25-34 came in a distant second. There were 2 arrests for persons age 11-17. Overall, there were 10 fewer arrests than last May. Overall this year arrests are still up 5% over last year. The department once again investigated some serious incidents this past month and our overall clearance rate for major crime is above both the New England States and National average for departments our size.

As stated before, relative to road construction, some traffic patterns will once again become a difficult issue and the traffic patterns are apt to change quickly due to the needs of new projects on a daily basis.

Training: Officer Benjamin Smoot attended training on responding to Missing and Abducted Children put on by the Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Officer David Bergeron attended training in Spanish for Law Enforcement. Gregory Bach became the newest trained member of the Sexual Assault investigation team. Officer Josiah Morrisette became certified as a drug recognition expert through the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. Officer Daniel Deveau and Officer Steven Prior were both trained as field training officers. Sergeant Emerick is attending training as of the end of May and into June regarding Sexual Assault Investigation team development. Dispatcher Brian Crater attended a Dispatcher Workshop relative to numerous educational topics in 911 call taking. Sergeant Timothy Burke and Detective Jody Dwight attended training at the New England Narcotics Officer Conference and Detective Dwight was a facilitator in some of the topic areas. Numerous other training sessions will be attended during the upcoming months by many officers.

Emergency Management: Sgt. Emerick has continued his hard work relative to Emergency Management planning and NIMS compliance training. More planning and training is scheduled in future months including work with the school department on emergency response. This included an exercise in May regarding a School evacuation. Upgrades are still underway for the town's radio antennae system which should be completed in early spring.

Grants: We received an award letter from the state for their portion of the bullet resistant vest reimbursement program soon. This is for replacement vests for our police officers. A new round of applications have been sent for our newer officers

Animal Control: The Animal Control officer responded to at least 47 complaints in the month of May. This is a marked increase in comparison to recent months. The Animal Control Officer and her blood hound, "Rose," attended training in Human Search Techniques in Co-operation with the Worcester County Sheriffs Department.

Events: The Citizen's Police Academy began the end of March with 18 people attending. The class continues throughout April. The class ran through May 9, 2007 and was a huge success. If possible we hope to hold one during the next fiscal year. The Worcester County District Attorney's Office was very helpful on the last day of this academy. In late May I attended an information session on video traffic monitoring and although it is in its infancy in Massachusetts further investigation into its use and effectiveness will be done over the next few

months. The town of Blackstone will be doing a pilot program regarding this system and by fall I may bring some insight into those results to you (the town manager) and to the Board of Selectmen.

Lastly on a more "SOUR" note, arrangements are ongoing for the transfer of dispatcher functions to the patrol officers. This is being done because of the impending budget cuts should the budget override and/or appropriations mandate cuts to the police department's overall FY08 operational budget.

As always I wish to thank you and the Board of Selectmen for your support as police chief and look forward to working with you in the upcoming months.

TOWN CLERK: Submitted by Joseph Kaplan

TOWN MEETING of May 8, 2007: The draft minutes for the May 8, 2007 election are complete and are being reviewed for final form.

TOWN ELECTION of May 22, 2007: The town election was held on May 22, 2007. The newly-elected and re-elected officials were sworn in on May 23. A total of 1453 voters cast ballots (out of 8916 voters for a 16% turnout). All four precincts were fully staffed as statutorily required with one warden, one clerk, two inspectors at the check-in table and two inspectors at the check out table. The poll workers received hands-on training and a training manual.

This election premiered the new auto-mark machine, required and provided by the Commonwealth, to be at every polling location in the state. The auto-mark assists voters with disabilities with marking their ballots. Use of the auto-mark was featured as part of poll-worker training. Two voters used this machine to help them mark ballots.

The overall response to the administration of this election was very positive. There were 71 voters marked as "inactive" due to not answering the census. Though every municipality has a number of inactive voters in every election, many complained that they should not have been marked as such. Voters who are inactive must show identification and sign an affirmation of current and continuous residence. Though no voter was denied their right or turned away from the polls, the number of people who expressed insistence that their status was incorrect merits a review of the census process and Election Day procedures, which I will conduct and make report on.

PREPARATION FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION OF JUNE 12, 2007: Coming on the heels of the last election, the Town Clerk's office is busy preparing for the next election. Absentee ballots are now available and are being processed on a daily basis. Poll workers are being assigned to their positions, with a training scheduled for Wednesday, June 6. The training manual is being updated for this election. Like they were in the recent election, the DPW and School Department are being cheerfully cooperative and instrumental to the election. All statutory requirements are being met, including testing of ballots and machinery, and required notification of the testing.

VITAL RECORDS: In the month of May we have recorded with the Secretary of State: 17 Birth Certificates, 3 Marriage Licenses, 7 Death Certificates. On the 10th of each month a state report is required requiring the number of births, marriages, and deaths that have been processed by the Town Clerk's Office. We issued: 35 certified copies of birth, 23 certified copies of marriage, 12 certified copies of death. All birth, marriage, and death certificates are indexed on a monthly basis.

REQUESTS/CERTIFICATES/LICENSES ISSUED: 9 Business Certificate Applications processed, 9 Couples filed new Marriage Intentions, 57 Dog Licenses, 3 Kennel Licenses, 3 Fuel Storage

OTHER ITMES ISSUES: 1 Street Listing Book sold, 17 Notarizations performed

TURNOVERS: Our office handles the dog licenses as well as processing the funds collected for the licenses, late fees, and fines by the Animal Control. Total amount of funds turned over to the Treasurer's/Collector's Office for the month of May was \$2051.

VOTER REGISTRATION: We processed 49 voter registration applications in the month of May. These multi-purpose forms are used for registering new voters, changing party affiliation and notifying the registrars of a change of name or Uxbridge address.

Ten (10) people were removed from the voter registration roles. Voters are removed when we receive notice that they moved out of town or have passed away. Voters may also request that their names be removed from the registration roster.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: I am continuing to work with the Guidance Office of Uxbridge High School in recruiting students to use their community service hours for the election and preparation of it. Press releases were issued regarding the availability of absentee ballots, and voter registration deadlines.

OFFICE RECORDKEEPING: The Town Clerk's Office is the archival repository for the town. Our office is responsible for all 20 day appeals on ZBA decisions, filing Planning Board documents, (i.e. Form A), all town board and committee minutes, and processing and postings of meetings and agenda for public viewing. Individuals may request copies of meeting minutes, agendas, and postings through our office.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Research, which entails 20 – 25 hours per month, Genealogy, Swearing in of committee members, new police officers, and public officials

STAFF: Ellen Mayo, who will be working with us until the end of June, has been instrumental in completing the census within the statutory time line and has been of great assistance in preparing for both the recent election and the upcoming one. Assistant Town Clerk Doris Saucier deserves much credit for the success of the recent election. She generously shares her own knowledge about elections administration and Uxbridge procedures, and has taken on great responsibility in the non-election aspects of the Town Clerk's Office which has helped me focus on the last election and to focus on the impending one.

BOARD OF REGISTRARS: The Board of Registrars, as statutorily required, conducted the following voter registration sessions in the Town Clerk's Office:

- May 2, 4pm – 8pm (deadline to register for the May 22 Annual Town Election)
- May 23, 4pm – 8pm (deadline to register for the June 12 Special Town Election)
- May 24, 4pm – 8pm (deadline to register for the June 13 Special Town Meeting)

TOWN PLANNER: Submitted by Cheryl Brodeur

Spoke with or met with numerous members of the public concerning questions on planning and zoning issues. Spent time with the following projects before the Planning Board:

Town Meeting Matters:

- At its 4/11/07 meeting, the Planning Board held a Public Hearing on a Zoning Article for the Spring Town Meeting Warrant concerning a possible associate member for Planning Board. The associate member would sit in on special permits only, and vote only if one of the regular members was not able to vote. The Planning Board supported the article unanimously. The article was one of many continued from the May 8th Town Meeting to the June 13th Town Meeting.

Planning Board Matters:

- Attended 2 Planning Board Meetings.

- Worked with new Planning Board Chairman and new Planning Board member going through projects and explaining projects and issues in detail including MGL concerning subdivisions and special permits (zoning). Also worked with the Planning Board Chair preparing her for her work in my absence.
- A&J Realty Holding Special Permit: The applicant plans to construct a 9,400 sq. ft. addition onto an existing 24,000 sq. ft. building. The proposal needs a Special Permit under Section VIII, Subsection A of the Uxbridge Zoning By-laws – Special Uses Controlled (building over 20,000 sq. ft.). The proposed addition does not meet one of the setback requirements for the Zone and the applicant will therefore have to approach the ZBA for a Variance before the Planning Board can grant the Special Permit.
- CVS Massachusetts LLC Special Permit: The Special Permit is required for the store to be open twenty-four hours. The project is moving very slowly on the applicant's end.
- Down East Definitive Plan Modification: The Public Hearing for this matter was scheduled to open on April 25th, and then the applicant asked that the Public Hearing be opened on May 9th. On May 9th the applicant asked that the Board open the Public Hearing on June 13th.
- Meadow Valley Estates Definitive Subdivision Plan: This is a small subdivision at the Chocolog Rd. /Schnor Sand Pit. The main concern has been the lack of adequate sight distance. Board voted to approve project. The applicant subsequently re-filed the Plan because the re-location of a roadway during the earlier approval process meant that abutters not previously noticed should be. The new Public Hearing was opened and closed on May 23rd and the Plan was approved.
- Mill On West River Pond (Waucantuck) Special Permit: Proposed redevelopment of old mill buildings involving cleanup of a brownfield site located along Mendon St. adjacent to West River Rd. and Henry St. The Special Permit for the Project was granted by the Planning Board on April 11th. The decision was ready for signature approximately one week after the vote was taken but it was not signed in April or May because there was a need to iron out some engineering review fee issues between the review firm and the applicant. The decision is scheduled to be signed at the June 13th Planning Board meeting. The applicant is currently before the Conservation Commission and has brought in a slightly modified Plan to them that may need to be re-visited by the Planning Board. Chief Ostroskey, when shown the new Plan, expressed concerns re: new fire safety issues.
- Spaulding Way Definitive Subdivision Plan: Proposed one lot subdivision. BETA Group Engineering does not believe it meets the Town's definition for a subdivision and may be withdrawn without prejudice by the applicant.
- Wanda Way Definitive Subdivision Plan: Proposed two lot subdivision at the intersection of Paine and Buffum. This project is also moving slowly from the applicant end.
- West River Estates Phase V Definitive Plan: Wrote draft decision for 5 lot subdivision project. The Plan was approved at the Planning Board's May 9th Meeting.

Other Matters:

- Spent a significant amount of time with the Zoning Board of Appeals on the Summerfield project, working with the applicant and our engineering firm as well as drafting potential conditions of approval for a draft decision on the applicant's request for a Special Permit under the article passed at the January Special Town Meeting. Worked closely with the applicant's attorney to come up with a final decision that the ZBA will vote on at their June 6 meeting.

- Met with Town Manager and Planning Board Chairman on budget matters and the status of current projects before the Planning Board
- Continued to spend some time on 43D streamlined permitting, including ideas for some of the Town's needs via possible grant.
- Continued to work on the Four Town project in the Lackey Dam area along Route 146.
- Savers Bank: Continued to work with DPW Superintendent, Savers Bank and Town traffic consultants on traffic issues at the intersection of Routes 16 and 122. Further, raised issues with Bank president and the met with Bank's attorney and DPW Superintendent on the matter. Spoke with Bank's attorney on numerous occasions in an effort to get all parties in agreement. Later in the month the Planning Board took up the matter agreeing to signage issues and conveying to the bank that traffic light issues must also be completed promptly. After attempting for months to resolve the matter, the Planning Board sent a letter to Savers Bank setting time limits for resolution of all issues or it may move to reopen the Special Permit for lack of compliance with the Special Permit conditions. The DPW stopped workers when problems were discovered on what was being done.
- Mall: Continued to help resolve issues related to commercial development at Routes 16 and 146. This included continued discussion concerning the new streamline permitting law.